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Message Text

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71
ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 /134 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN/B:SHLIPPE:HLB
APPROVED BY ARA/CEN - DAVID LAZAR
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USOAS - R. POOLE (SUBS)
EUR/NE - C. FLOYD (INFO)
ARA/CAR - J. BURKE (INFO)
---------- 015842
P 222025Z APR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL ATLANTA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081513

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PBOR, GT, BH, OAS
SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE AND OASGA: AGENDA ITEMS 12 AND 18
REF: STATE 78713

1. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS TOLD DEPARTMENT THAT BELIZEAN ATTORNEY GENERAL VERNON COURTENAY DISCUSSED BELIZEAN CONCERNS WITH THEM APRIL 18 IN WASHINGTON. PRESUMABLY COURTENAY ALSO TALKING WITH TRADITIONAL BELIZEAN FRIENDS AMONG CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH. COURTENAY WHO IS NOW IN ATLANTA SAID THAT PREMIER PRICE MAY ALSO TRAVEL THERE FOR OASGA.

2. BRITISH DESCRIBED COURTENAY'S ATTITUDE AS VERY DEPRESSED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR RESOLUTION BELIZE DISPUTE WITH GUATEMALA, AND THUS BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE, POINTING
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TO APPARENT GOG FOOT DRAGGING ON RESUMPTION OF TALKS AND

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LITTLE TIME LEFT UNTIL NEW GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE. ACCORDING BRITISH, COURTENAY BELIEVES GOG STALLING BECAUSE GUATEMALA PREFERS STATUS QUO AND THAT IT MAY BE IN BELIZE'S INTEREST TO SEE ISSUE RAISED. COURTENAY REPORTEDLY APPRECIATES THAT DOING SO MAY COMPLICATE BRITISH CHANCES FOR OAS OBSERVER STATUS BUT BELIEVES GUATEMALA'S REPORTED DESIRE FOR LOW KEY TREATMENT OF BELIZE DISPUTE AT OASGA IS MORE STALLING. BRITISH STATE THEY POINTED OUT TO COURTENAY THAT WITH THE PROSPECT OF TALKS WITH GUATEMALA LIKELY IT WAS NOT IN BELIZE'S INTEREST TO FORCE THIS ISSUE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, MEETING AGENDA, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE081513
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SHLIPPE:HLB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740094-0146
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740424/aaaaauxz.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 78713
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE DISPUTE AND OASGA: AGENDA ITEMS 12 AND 18
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PBOR, GT, BH, OAS, (COURTENAY, VERNON)
To: ATLANTA PRIORITY
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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